

House Study Bill 156

SENATE/HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED GOVERNOR'S BILL)

Passed Senate, Date _____ Passed House, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to child care services administered by the
2 department of human services by revising requirements for the
3 state child care assistance program and providing for
4 implementation of a voluntary child care rating system.
5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:
6 TLSB 1686XL 81
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1 1 Section 1. Section 237A.13, subsection 5, paragraph c,
2 Code 2005, is amended to read as follows:
3 c. Families with an income of more than one hundred
4 percent but not more than one hundred ~~forty~~ forty-five percent
5 of the federal poverty level whose members are employed at
6 least twenty-eight hours per week.
7 Sec. 2. Section 237A.30, Code 2005, is amended by striking
8 the section and inserting in lieu thereof the following:
9 237A.30 CHILD CARE QUALITY RATING SYSTEM.
10 1. The department shall work with the community
11 empowerment office of the department of management established
12 in section 28.3 and the state child care advisory council in
13 designing and implementing a quality rating system for child
14 care facilities.
15 2. The quality rating system shall be voluntary and
16 composed of multiple ratings based upon the rating criteria
17 adopted for the system. The criteria utilized may include but
18 are not limited to any of the following: facility type;
19 provider staff education, training, and credentials; facility
20 director education and training; an environmental rating score
21 or other direct assessment environmental methodology; national
22 accreditation; facility history of compliance with law and
23 rules; child-to-staff ratio; curriculum; business practices;
24 staff retention rates; evaluation of staff members and program
25 practices; staff compensation and benefit practices; provider
26 and staff membership in professional early childhood
27 organizations; and parental involvement with the facility.
28 3. The department may directly administer or contract for
29 the administration of the quality rating system. A facility's
30 quality rating may be included on the internet page and in the
31 consumer information provided by the department pursuant to
32 section 237A.25 and shall be identified in the child care
33 provider referrals made by child care resource and referral
34 service grantees under section 237A.26.
35 4. For reimbursement paid under the state child care
2 1 assistance program established in section 237A.13, the
2 2 department may implement a reimbursement rate methodology
2 3 applicable to child care facilities participating in the
2 4 rating system in which the reimbursement rate varies based
2 5 upon the rating of a facility and may pay an achievement bonus
2 6 under the program to providers that are awarded a quality
2 7 rating.
2 8 Sec. 3. PHASED IMPLEMENTATION.
2 9 1. Effective July 1, 2005, the department of human
2 10 services shall no longer accept applications for the gold seal
2 11 quality designation for child care providers under section
2 12 237A.30, Code 2005. However, if a child care provider has
2 13 been awarded the designation prior to July 1, 2005, the
2 14 designation may continue to be utilized for that provider
2 15 until the designated period of nationally recognized
2 16 accreditation for which the gold seal designation was awarded
2 17 has ended.
2 18 2. The department of human services shall commence

2 19 implementation of the child care quality rating system under
2 20 section 237A.30, as amended by this Act, by awarding ratings
2 21 beginning on or after January 1, 2006.

2 22 EXPLANATION

2 23 This bill relates to child care services administered by
2 24 the department of human services.

2 25 Code section 237A.13 requirements for the state child care
2 26 assistance program are revised. The income eligibility
2 27 standard used for the third of the program's four waiting list
2 28 priorities is increased by 5 percent. This third priority, as
2 29 amended by the bill, is for families with an income of 100
2 30 percent but not more than 145 percent of the federal poverty
2 31 level whose members are employed at last 28 hours per week.
2 32 The waiting list requirements are applied if the funding
2 33 appropriated for the program is insufficient to provide
2 34 assistance to all who would otherwise be eligible.

2 35 Code section 237A.30, providing for recognition of high=
3 1 quality child care providers with a gold seal quality child
3 2 care provider designation, is stricken and replaced with a new
3 3 child care quality rating system for child care facilities.
3 4 Code chapter 237A defines the term "child care facility" to
3 5 mean a child care center, preschool, or registered child
3 6 development home. The new rating system is required to be
3 7 voluntary and to include multiple ratings. The department is
3 8 required to develop the rating system by working with the
3 9 community empowerment office of the department of management
3 10 and the state child care advisory council. The bill lists
3 11 various criteria that the department may use in developing the
3 12 multiple ratings to be used in the quality rating system.

3 13 The bill requires the department to stop accepting
3 14 applications for the gold seal quality child care provider
3 15 designation effective July 1, 2005. However, the designation
3 16 may continue to be used until the designated period of
3 17 nationally recognized accreditation has ended.

3 18 The department is required to commence implementation of
3 19 the quality rating system by awarding ratings beginning on or
3 20 after January 1, 2006.

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